

[0041] Although the invention has been described in its preferred form with a certain degree of particularity, it will be understood that the present disclosure of the preferred embodiment has been made only by way of example and that various changes may be resorted to without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter claimed. It is intended that the patent shall cover, by suitable expression in the appended claims, whatever features of patentable novelty exist in the invention disclosed.

What is claimed is:

1. A surgical drape for use in conjunction with an operating table having an upper surface upon which a patient can be placed, comprising:

a first, closed container having a portion that can be selectively opened to form a first opening, the first container being of a size and shape such that a patient can be placed atop the first container when the first container is placed on the upper surface; and

a first sheet disposed within the first container, the first sheet having first and second opposed ends, the first end of the first sheet being removable from the first container through the first opening so as to remove a desired portion of the first sheet from the container, the second end of the first sheet remaining within the container.

2. The surgical drape of claim 1, wherein the first sheet is made of a fluid-impervious material.

3. The surgical drape of claim 1, wherein the first container is made of a fluid-impervious material.

4. The surgical drape of claim 1, further comprising a pull tab attached to the first end of the first sheet.

5. The surgical drape of claim 1, wherein the first sheet is folded within the first container in a plicated manner.

6. The surgical drape of claim 1, wherein the selectively openable portion is defined by scores.

7. The surgical drape of claim 1, further comprising an adhesive surface on the outer surface of the first container and a removable protective layer disposed over the adhesive surface, the adhesive surface being exposed upon removal of the protective layer, the adhesive surface being attachable to the upper surface of the operating table to prevent movement of the first container relative thereto.

8. The surgical drape of claim 1, further comprising:

a second sheet having first and second opposed ends, the second end of the second sheet being connected to the second end of the first sheet, the first end of the second sheet being movable relative to the second end of the second sheet so as to expose a desired portion of the second sheet; and

a second, closed container within which is disposed the first sheet, the first container, and the second sheet, the second container having a sealed closure that can be selectively opened to permit the contents of the second container to be removed therefrom.

9. The surgical drape of claim 8, wherein the first sheet is made of a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and vinyl.

10. The surgical drape of claim 8, wherein the first container is made of a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and vinyl.

11. The surgical drape of claim 8, further comprising a pull tab attached to the first end of the first sheet.

12. The surgical drape of claim 8, wherein the first sheet is folded within the first container in a plicated manner.

13. The surgical drape of claim 8, wherein the selectively openable portion of the first container is defined by scores.

14. The surgical drape of claim 8, wherein the second sheet is comprised of a first ply made of netting material, a second ply made of an absorbent pulp material, and a third ply made of a fluid impervious material, the third ply in use adapted to be in contact with the upper surface of the operating table.

15. The surgical drape of claim 14, further comprising an adhesive surface on the outer surface of the third ply and a removable protective layer disposed over the adhesive surface, the adhesive surface being exposed upon removal of the protective layer, the adhesive surface being attachable to the upper surface of the operating table to prevent movement of the second sheet relative thereto.

16. The surgical drape of claim 8, wherein the second sheet is folded within the second container in a plicated manner.

17. The surgical drape of claim 8, wherein the first container includes a second opening through which the second end of the second sheet extends into the first container, the second opening being sealed tightly to the second end of the second sheet.

18. The surgical drape of claim 8, wherein the second container is made of a material that permits the contents of the second container to remain in a sterilized condition while the second container is unopened.

19. A sheet for protecting portions of a patient during pre-operation preparations, the sheet being usable in conjunction with a surgical drape, the sheet comprising:

a first end that conforms generally to the shape of a selected portion of the patient; and

a second end that is attachable to the surgical drape, the attachment between the second end and the surgical drape being severable so that the sheet can be removed and discarded when desired.

20. The surgical drape of claim 19, wherein the sheet is made of a fluid-impervious material.

21. The surgical drape of claim 19, further comprising a layer of adhesive about the periphery of the sheet that permits the sheet to be attached to the patient.

22. The surgical drape of claim 1, further comprising a pouch-like container made of a lightweight, flexible material, the pouch-like container having a large opening at a first end and a small, selectively openable opening at a second end, the pouch-like container further comprising a layer of adhesive adjacent the large opening that permits the pouch-like container to be attached to, and removed from, a selected portion of the first sheet or the first container.

23. A surgical drape for use in conjunction with an operating table having an upper surface upon which a patient can be placed, comprising:

a first, closed container having a portion defined by scores that can be selectively opened to form a first opening, the first container being of a size and shape such that a patient can be placed atop the first container when the first container is placed on the upper surface, the first container being made of a fluid-impervious;

a first sheet disposed within the first container, the first sheet being folded within the first container in a pli-